

Drexel Hill, PA— Health care professionals and community leaders from Crozer Keystone's Community Inclusion Network hosted Congressman Joe Sestak (PA-07) for an in-depth examination of health care issues. The session was part of the group's continued effort to become more informed about subjects or particular concern to their community. The Congressman met with the group at Delaware County Memorial Hospital to discuss ways in which to provide low-income individuals and families with quality health care services. — "A comprehensive effort from both government and health care workers is critical to provide the support that these people need," said Congressman Sestak. "I believe that this is an important first step to building a partnership with a dedicated support group that can help ensure my constituents are knowledgeable about resources available to them."

In addition to its specific interest in health care issues, the group provides community support to immigrants and their children, as well as training for social workers, teachers, and school nurses. The Community Inclusion Network operates as an initiative of Crozer Keystone Medical Services.

Congressman Sestak has made health care a top priority, working to increase services for small businesses, seniors, children, veterans, and hospitals. He has worked to pass a ten percent increase in funding for Community Health Centers, legislation that offers grants for small businesses that need assistance to provide affordable coverage to their employees, and a health care tax credit that covers 85 percent of costs for workers' families displaced by trade actions. Through the appropriations process, the Congressman advocated for and won \$316,000 for a new regional Burn Treatment Center at Crozer-Chester Medical Center. Furthermore, the Congressman has emphasized the need to enhance the care given to the men and women who defend our nation, helping pass a bill that allocates \$600 million for new initiatives for mental health and Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder.

"The ultimate goal must be to provide quality, affordable health care to all Americans," said Congressman Sestak. "I am watching closely the results of the system enacted in Massachusetts, where the state government worked in a bipartisan way to mandate participation in the health care system to drive down costs, and help small businesses by allowing them to band together as large bargaining units to negotiate lower premiums from private insurers. It is this kind of bipartisan approach that we need to take at the federal level to find viable solutions because we cannot accept that any American is unable to afford health care."

Born and raised in Delaware County, former 3-star Admiral Joe Sestak served in the Navy for 31 years and now serves as the Representative from the 7th District of Pennsylvania. He led a series of operational commands at sea, including Commander of an aircraft carrier battle group of 30 U.S. and allied ships with over 15,000 sailors and 100 aircraft that conducted operations in Afghanistan and Iraq. After 9/11, Joe was the first Director of "Deep Blue," the Navy's anti-terrorism unit that established strategic and operations policies for the "Global War on Terrorism." He served as President Clinton's Director for Defense Policy at the National Security Council in the White House, and holds a Ph.D. in Political Economy and Government from Harvard University. According to the office of the House Historian, Joe is the highest-ranking former military officer ever elected to the U.S. Congress.